

7 to 9 fathoms of water, and offers an instance of this nature. Here I expected to find the corals in luxuriance; but the appearance of its surface from the ship's side and the character of the soundings showed that the greater portion of its area consisted of dead coral-rock dotted with bosses of massive corals here and there. Such was the condition of another shoal in Bougainville Straits, which was covered by from 5 to 6 fathoms of water. Here the eye could discern an occasional dark-coloured boss of coral in a field of a pale grey hue, which was shown by the nature of the crushed material adhering to a heavy lead to be dead coral-rock.

A word with reference to the general character of the reefs in the Solomon group may not be out of place in concluding this paper. From the works of Krusenstern, Surville, Bougainville, and Labillardière, Mr. Darwin presumed that these islands were fringed ('Coral Reefs,' p. 167, edit. 1842). There are, however, numerous reefs in this archipelago which belong to the class of barrier-reefs. A barrier-reef of extensive nature is situated on the west side of Bougainville Straits, where it follows the edge of a wide submarine platform, which may be viewed as the submerged continuation of Bougainville Island. A smaller barrier-reef, previously referred to in the instance of Choiseul Bay, skirts the western extremity of the island of Choiseul on the opposite side of these straits. Similar lines of dangerous reefs lie off portions of the coasts of Guadalcanar, Malayta, and other islands. I hope on some future occasion to enter more fully into this subject, this reference to which must for the present suffice.

LIII.—*On the Relation of the Pali of Corals to the Tentacles.*

By Prof. P. MARTIN DUNCAN, F.R.S. &c.

PROF. LINDSTRÖM has brought under my notice that my late friend M. de Pourtalès differed from me in reference to the relation of pali to the tentacles of Corals. In noticing a very interesting form from the Caribbean Sea which has a Miocene ancestry, M. de Pourtalès considered the question of pali. He wrote, "Prof. Duncan's supposition that the office of the pali is to support an extra circle of tentacles is not borne out in this species, nor in any other paliferous coral of which I have had the opportunity of examining the polyp." We had a conversation on this point, and M. de Pourtalès told me that he had not had opportunities of seeing many living forms with pali with the soft parts extended, but that

those he had seen had the soft disk supported by the pali. He was then made aware that the supposition did not come within the scope of the word conjecture, and there was no remonstrance whatever on his part, as Prof. Lindström thinks. The so-called supposition was not mine, but that of a man whose admirable and extensive original researches led him beyond the troubles of criticism. Jules Haime's essay on the soft parts of *Cladocora cespitosa*\* is one of the most interesting and important of his works, and is of great value because he described the soft structures in their natural condition and not after altering them by reagents. It was necessary that I should abstract this essay in my introduction to the "Supplement to the British Fossil Corals," Palæontographical Society, 1866. The translation of the part of the sentence, "coïncide avec la présence des palis situés au dessous et en dedans de ces tentacules," although placed between inverted commas, was mistaken by my friend as my own opinion and the result of my own work.

There was no supposition, but a definite statement of a fact by a naturalist who was as well able to judge the truth as any subsequent investigators.

Whilst I was preparing the monograph just alluded to, Mr. Peach was good enough to watch and draw some specimens of *Caryophyllia clavus*, var. *borealis*, and to send me his finished delineations and descriptions. The lithographs on plate ii. Monogr. Brit. Foss. Corals, pt. i. 1866, figs. 9-20, are correct reproductions of nature. He was convinced, as I was and still am, that the inner row of tentacles of figs. 9 and 11 relate to the pali in the manner seen by Jules Haime in *Cladocora*.

May 1884.

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LIV.—On some *Hydrocorallinæ* from Alaska and California.  
By W. H. DALL †.

THE descriptions herewith, with one exception, are of species from an area from which none have hitherto been described ‡.

\* Hist. Nat. des Corall. vol. ii. p. 591.

† From a separate impression from the 'Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington,' vol. ii. 1883-84. Communicated by the Author, having been read March 22, 1884.

‡ A *Stylaster rosso-americanus*, Brandt, has been mentioned (Z. wiss. Zool. xxii. p. 292), but has never been described or figured. It may be an additional species.